

**From:** Ev Plant  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 12:26pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

July 22, 2001  
Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It is time to stop fiddling with the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit, while the American technology industry burns. I strongly support your leadership in directing your Department of Justice to settle this embarrassment. After three years of lawyering and three months of negotiations, I am glad that the parties, including my home state of Illinois, have agreed to what may be the least flawed settlement possible.

Microsoft agreed to give up a great deal in the settlement. Were I in charge of Microsoft, I fantasize that I would have led out to maintain the principles of American free enterprise. However, I respect what Microsoft went through, and Microsoft's choice. Under the settlement, Microsoft sets a precedent as the first company to disclose to its competitors the code for its internal interfaces of an operating system, its popular Windows programs. Further, Microsoft will release its server interoperability protocols, and on a non-discriminatory basis license its copyrights and patents to other companies who might otherwise infringe. Microsoft will modify Windows XP and later to make it easy for others, including competitors, to add their own programs or remove Microsoft's programs integral to Windows. A three-person oversight committee will monitor compliance and field complaints from any party. I think at all of this is too much, but support Microsoft's decision to accept the settlement.

America has always been at the forefront of computer software development. Let's maintain America's leadership position. Your leadership was essential to reaching the settlement. Now your leadership can help convince the Federal Judge to accept the settlement. I appreciate your strong leadership. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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